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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4615
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 KABUL 000085

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 01/10/2020
TAGS PGOV, PREL, AF
SUBJECT: KARZAI AND CODEL MCCAIN ON PROGRESS, ELECTIONS,
AND REINTEGRATION

Classified By: Ambassador Karl Eikenberry, Reasons. 1.4 (B) and (D)

1. (S) Summary: In a positive and free-ranging discussion, President Karzai and visiting CODEL McCain agreed that more should be done to tell
2. (U) CODEL McCain (Senator McCain (R-AZ), Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Senator John Thune (R-SD) and Senator John Barroso (R-WY)) met w

The Bad Old Days ... And The Better New Ones

3. (S) Karzai and the CODEL, who maintained a positive mood throughout the meeting and a dinner immediately following, discussed the American
4. (S) McCain and Lieberman reminded Karzai that they had met in a tent at Bagram Airbase in January 2002, with flashlights instead of electri
5. (S) The CODEL noted that President Obama's December 1 speech on the Afghanistan strategy had brought about a more favorable U.S. opinion at
6. (S) In view of the need to do more to tell both Afghans and Americans about what is going right in Afghanistan, Karzai noted his extremely

Elections: Confidence-Building

7. (S) Karzai linked the issue of Afghan perceptions to elections by saying "progress is there but confidence isn't" among the people because
KABUL 00000085 002 OF 003
"talk in diplomatic circles" is of an election delay which makes the Afghan people "extremely frightened." A delay would be a "dangerous" openi
8. (S) Conceding that a few months' delay would not engender the same fear and uncertainty, Karzai said that although he could announce a dels

Peace and Reintegration

9. (S) Karzai noted that the peace process and reintegration efforts help in the fight against the Taliban by working with those who are willi
10. (S) Lieberman pressed him to explain the concept of offering incentives to the Taliban, and emphasized that this outreach could be problem
11. (S) Karzai asked the CODEL how the U.S. Congress will receive this plan, to which McCain said it would be supported in view of the success

Pakistan Predictions

KABUL 00000085 003 OF 003

12. (S) The group reviewed current developments in Pakistan, and Karzai said that the overall bilateral relationship, while an improvement ove
13 (U) CODEL McCain was unable to clear this message. EIKENBERRY